

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

**BACKGROUND**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0008]:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008]       ~~The invention is underlied by the problem to specify~~ An object of the invention is a method and an apparatus of the kind initially mentioned, by which a high security is assured for the unauthorized use of facilities. The invention shall enable a cost-effective and fast verification and avoid to a large extent verification processes that burden the user.

Please add the following new paragraph after [0008]:

[0008.1]       The present invention provides a method for securing facilities against access of unauthorized persons, in particular for verifying the access authorization of gamblers to gambling machines in a casino, wherein biometric data of the persons are analyzed, characterized in that every person possesses a document in which biometric data of its owner are applied on a carrier material, the carrier material containing at least one identifiable body whose data are touchlessly acquired by an acquisition unit within a certain operating range and transferred to at least one facility, wherein the facility automatically loads the biometric data of all persons located within the operating range from a central memory storage into a device internal memory storage, and that an identification of the person as well as of the authorization to possess the document is performed at the facility.

Please delete paragraphs [0009] and [0010]

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0013]:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0018]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please delete paragraph [0024]

Please replace the heading before the claims with the following new heading:

~~CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS